

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 170600Z MAY 76 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7928

S E C R E T AMMAN 2622

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM PICKERING

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, US

SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE

1. AS AIR DEFENSE QUESTION PROCEEDS FURTHER, WE WILL HAVE NUMBER OF ISSUES TO RAISE AND SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE. WE FIND OURSELVES AT SOME DISADVANTAGE IN NOT KNOWING WHAT SAUDIS MAY HAVE SAID TO US IN RIYADH LAST WEEK -- IF ANYTHING. A PRECIS OF THEIR LATEST ATTITUDE AS CONVEYED TO US WOULD BE ENOUGH TO ALLOW US TO MAKE SOME MORE INFORMED JUDGMENTS FROM HERE IN TERMS OF HOW WE HANDLE A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS FOR THE FUTURE.

2. JORDANIANS HAVE OF COURSE NOT HEARD FROM SAUDIS. THEY HAVE NOT PRESSED ME FOR INFORMATION ON SAUDI VIEWS AND I HAVE NOT OFFERED THEM ANY AND DO NOT INTEND TO DO SO.

3. WE WILL BE SENDING YOU TODAY A CABLE WITH OUR THOUGHTS ON THE QUESTION OF CONTINUING HAWK TRAINING FOR JORDANIANS NOW IN THE US AND CONTRACT TERMINATION.

4. WE ARE ALSO PREPARING FOR YOU SOME MORE BROADLY ADDRESSED CONSIDERATIONS FOR HOW SOME OF THE POSSIBLE CHANGES IN RELATIONSHIPS HERE MAY AFFECT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA.

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5. WE HAVE ONE OTHER POTENTIAL QUESTION. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY BROWNMEN WILL BE ARRIVING HERE ON MAY 21, THE PENULTIMATE DAY OF THE VISIT OF SOVIET AIR MARSHAL PAVEL KUTAKHOV. BROWNMEN AND PARTY ARE FLYING HERE FROM SAUDI ARABIA. HIS VISIT HAS BEEN LONG PLANNED AND ANTEDATES RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON HAWKS. I AM INCLINED TO LET VISIT PROCEED AS PLANNED SINCE AROUND THE PRESENT TIME ANY VISIT REGARDLESS OF TIMING WILL RAISE QUESTION IN PEOPLES MIND OF A POSSIBLE US-SOVIET AUCTION OVER AIR DEFENSE. HOWEVER CANCELLATION WILL RAISE EVEN MORE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS BETWEEN US AND JORDANIANS IN TERMS OF POSSIBLY CHANGED SIGNALS FROM THE US. MY RECOMMENDATION THEREFORE IS TO KEEP VISIT ON SCHEDULE. JORDANIANS AT LEVEL OF CINC JAF ARE FULLY AWARE OF VISIT AND ITS OVERLAP WITH SOVIETS AND WANT TO KEEP IT THE WAY IT IS NOW SET. BROWNMEN WOULD I AM SURE HAVE A PROBLEM WITH CHANGE AND THERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT NON-AIR DEFENSE RELATED MILITARY ASSISTANCE REASONS FOR HIS COMING HERE. PICKERING

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